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Attorney for Defendant

Walmart Inc. dba Walmart

Supercenter Store #2593

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

LORI PEREZ, an individual,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WALMART, INC. d/b/a WALMART
SUPERCENTER STORE #2593, a foreign
corporation; DOE Individuals 1-10; DOE
Employees 11-20; and ROE Corporations 21-30,

Defendants.

Case No.:

[District Court, Clark County, Case
No.: A-22-855210-C, Dept. No.: 9]

**DEFENDANT WALMART, INC.'S
PETITION OF REMOVAL**

PETITION OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, 1441, and 1446, Defendant WALMART, INC. d/b/a WALMART SUPERCENTER STORE #2593 (“Defendant”) hereby files this Petition of Removal of the above referenced action from the Eighth Judicial District Court for the District of Nevada. In support of removal of this action, Defendant states as follows:

I. BACKGROUND

1. On July 11, 2022, Plaintiff LORI PEREZ (“Plaintiff”), filed her Complaint against Defendant and various fictitious parties in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada, Case No. A-22-855210-C. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff’s Complaint is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

2. On July 14, 2022, Defendant was served. A true and correct copy of the Affidavit of Service is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.
3. On August 18, 2022, Defendant filed its Answer. A true and correct copy of Defendant's Answer is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.
4. On September 6, 2022, Plaintiff filed a Request for Exemption from Arbitration, alleging an amount in controversy in excess of \$50,000.00. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's Request for Exemption from Arbitration is attached hereto as **Exhibit D**.
5. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b), the citizenship of the fictitious defendants shall be disregarded in determining jurisdiction. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b)(1) (regarding removal based on diversity of citizenship jurisdiction, "in determining whether a civil action is removable under section 1332(a) of this title, the citizenship of fictitious defendants shall be disregarded").
6. Plaintiff's Complaint pleads three causes of action: 1) negligence/negligence per se, 2) negligent hiring, training, and supervision, and (3) respondeat superior. *See* Ex. A.
7. Plaintiff seeks judgment against Defendant for general damages for past and future harms and losses in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00; special damages for past and future harms and losses in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00; costs of the suit, pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, and attorney's fees; and any other relief as the court deems just and proper. *See* Ex. A.

II. TIMELINESS OF REMOVAL

8. Generally, notice of removal must be filed within 30 days of the defendant's receipt of a copy of the initial pleading in an action. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).
9. On July 18, 2022, Defendant, through its registered agent, was served with a copy of the Complaint.

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10. In Plaintiff's Complaint, Plaintiff alleged damages in excess of \$15,000.00, which did not put Defendant on notice that the amount in controversy was in excess of \$75,000.00.

11. On September 6, 2022, Plaintiff filed a Request for Exemption from Arbitration, which indicated she's claiming, at a minimum, \$242,254.10 in medical bills. *See* Ex. D.

12. Based on Plaintiff's Request for Exemption from Arbitration, it has become apparent that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, rendering the case eligible for removal.

13. Defendant is a foreign corporation, and Plaintiff is a resident of Nevada, which satisfies complete diversity of citizenship. *See* Ex. A.

14. Thus, this Notice of Removal is timely as there is complete diversity of citizenship and such Notice has been filed within thirty (30) days of Defendant receiving notice that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00.

III. DIVERSITY JURISDICTION

15. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the diversity jurisdiction statute codified at 28 U.S.C. § 1332, which provides, in pertinent part, that the "district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between...citizens of different states." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1). As set forth below, the requirements for subject matter jurisdiction are satisfied because there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and Defendant, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interests and costs.

A. Complete Diversity of Citizenship Exists

16. For the purpose of diversity of citizenship jurisdiction, an individual is a citizen of the state in which he is domiciled. *See Newman-Green, Inc. v. Alfonzo-Lorrain*, 490 U.S. 826, 828 (1989). For the purposes of diversity jurisdiction, an individual is domiciled in the single

1 state where he resides if the individual has no present intention to reside in another state. *See*
2 *Kanter v. Warner-Lambert Co.*, 265 F.3d 853, 857 (9th Cir. 2001).

3 17. For the purpose of diversity of citizenship jurisdiction, a corporation shall be deemed to be a
4 citizen of any state in which it has been incorporated and of the state where it has its
5 principal place of business. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1). A corporation's "principal place of
6 business" is "the place where a corporation's officers direct, control, and coordinate the
7 corporation's activities." *Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 559 U.S. 77, 93 (2010). A corporation's
8 principal place of business is usually the singular location of the corporation's main
9 headquarters "from which the corporation radiates out to its constituent parts." *Hertz Corp.*,
10 559 U.S. at 93. This "nerve center" test displaced the formerly utilized "business activities
11 test" and does not take into consideration the places in which the corporation has a registered
12 agent or conducts business. *Hertz*, 559 U.S. at 93. An unincorporated division, trade name,
13 or d/b/a of a corporation is not a separate and distinct entity for purposes of removal, and its
14 citizenship, for diversity purposes, is identical to that of the corporation to which it belongs.
15 *See e.g., Breitman v. May Company, Cal.*, 37 F.3d 562, 564 (9th Cir. 1994) ("We find that
16 the distinction between an incorporated subsidiary and an unincorporated division is
17 important for determining diversity jurisdiction. A division of a corporation does not possess
18 the formal separateness upon which the general rule is based, and thus is not an independent
19 entity for jurisdictional purposes.") (internal citations omitted).

20 18. The Plaintiff in this action is domiciled in, and a resident of, Nevada. *See* Ex. A.

21 19. Defendant WALMART, INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of
22 Delaware, with its principal place of business in Arkansas. Plaintiff's Complaint admits that
23 Defendant is a foreign corporation. *See* Ex. A.

24 20. Because Plaintiff is a citizen of Nevada and Defendant is a citizen of Delaware and
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Arkansas, complete diversity of citizenship exists.

B. The Amount in Controversy Exceeds \$75,000, Exclusive of Costs and Interest

21. “In determining whether the defendant has established that diversity jurisdiction exists, the district court must first consider whether it is ‘facially apparent’ from the complaint that the jurisdictional amount in controversy requirement is met.” *McCaa v. Mass. Mut. Life Ins. Co.*, 330 F. Supp.2d 1143, 1145 (D.Nev. 2004) (citing *Singer v. State Farm Mut. Auto Ins. Co.*, 116 F.3d 373, 377 (9th Cir. 1997)). “[I]f a plaintiff’s complaint fails to specify damages or specifies damages in an amount less than the jurisdictional minimum, the defendant must show, by a preponderance of the evidence, facts demonstrating that the amount involved in the litigation exceeds the statutory jurisdictional threshold.” *Id.* (citing *Sanchez v. Monumental Life Ins. Co.*, 102 F.3d 398, 403-4 (9th Cir. 1996)); *see also Sterling Sav. Bank v. Portfolio Group Mgmt., Inc.*, No. 3:12-cv-00374-LRH-WGC, 2012 WL 3277159, * 2 (D.Nev. Aug. 9, 2012).

22. Consistent with the requirements of Nevada law, Plaintiff’s Complaint only states that the damages suffered by Plaintiff are in excess of \$15,000. The amount in controversy is not facially apparent from the damages alleged in Plaintiff’s Complaint.

23. However, as discussed above, Plaintiff’s Request for Exemption from Arbitration made it apparent that the amount in controversy in this matter exceeds \$75,000.

24. Plaintiff’s Request for Exemption from Arbitration indicates she’s claiming, at a minimum, \$242,254.10 in medical bills. *See Ex. D.*

IV. VENUE IS PROPER IN THIS DISTRICT AND DIVISION

25. Plaintiff filed her Complaint in the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada in and for the County of Clark, which lies in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. Accordingly, venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).

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V. THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL HAVE BEEN SATISFIED

26. A Notice of Filing, with a copy of this Petition of Removal attached, will promptly be filed with the Clerk of the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada in and for the County of Clark, as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

27. A written notice of the filing of this Petition of Removal will be given to Plaintiff as required by law pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

28. Additionally, as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), a copy of all process, pleadings, and orders filed in the underlying state court action are attached hereto as **Exhibit E**.

29. The allegations within this Petition of Removal are true and correct, and this cause is within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the District of Nevada.

30. If any question arises as to the propriety of the removal of this action, Defendant requests the opportunity to present a brief and oral argument in support of its position that this civil action is removable.

DATED this 9th day of September, 2022.

ALVERSON TAYLOR & SANDERS

/s/ Kurt R. Bonds _____
KURT R. BONDS, ESQ.
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6605 Grand Montecito Parkway
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(702) 384-7000
Attorney for Defendant Walmart Inc. D/B/A
Walmart Supercenter Store #2593

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE VIA CM/ECF

I hereby certify that on this 12th day of September, 2022, I did serve, via Case Management/Electronic Case Filing, a copy of the above and foregoing **DEFENDANT WALMART, INC.'S PETITION OF REMOVAL** addressed to:

Kristin H. Cogburn, Esq.
Joseph J. Troiano, Esq.
COGBURN LAW
2580 St. Rose Pkwy., Suite 330
Henderson, NV 89074

/s/ Teri Jenks

An Employee of ALVERSON
TAYLOR & SANDERS

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